

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The alleged objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph have been appropriately addressed.

Turning to the art-based rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) to Kaneda, and without acceding thereto, independent Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify the invention intended to be claimed; Claim 8 has been amended to change its dependency to independent Claim 1; Claims 12-17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 18 and 19 have been added.

As now set forth in independent Claim 1, a memory apparatus comprises a rewritable nonvolatile memory and a control circuit, wherein the rewritable nonvolatile memory includes a plurality of memory cells arranged in a memory array. Claim 1 further recites that a memory cell associated with each logical address includes a piece of memory information. Applicants respectfully submit that Kaneda fails to teach or suggest at least the aforementioned features of Claim 1.

Kaneda discloses that memory cells associated with logical addresses 0-6 have data, but that the memory cell associated with logical address 4 does not have data. See

Kaneda, Figure 4. Thus, in Kaneda, each logical address does not have data. In contrast, in Applicants' claimed invention, a memory cell associated with each logical address includes a piece of memory information (i.e., data).

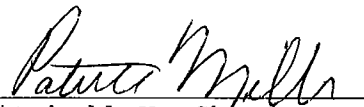
Accordingly, Claim 1 (and its dependents), at least as presently amended, is believed to distinguish patentably from Kaneda.

Independent Claim 11 has been amended in a manner generally analogous to Claim 1, and is therefore believed to distinguish patentably from Kaneda for similar reasons.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10493) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Mitchell W. Shapiro  
Reg. No. 31,568

Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.  
1751 Pinnacle Drive  
Suite 500  
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833  
(703) 610-8651  
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Patrick Miller  
Reg. No. 57,502